




TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AUSTIN, TEXAS
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Directors
Directors, Local Health Departments
Directors, Independent WIC Local Agencies
Herman Horn, Chief, Bureau of Regional/Local Health Operations

FROM: Bob Kissel, Acting Chief 
Bureau of Nutrition Services

DATE: July 28, 2000

SUBJECT: Use of the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
as a WIC "Gateway" for Income Eligibility

The state agency has received some calls from local agencies inquiring if recipients of CHIP, one of three separate health insurance programs for children being administered by TexCare Partnership, can be used for adjunctive income eligibility in the same way WIC accepts TANF, Food Stamps and Medicaid as gateway programs to WIC.

The answer is no. Since WIC income guidelines are set at or below 185% of poverty and CHIP income limits are at or below 200% of poverty, some children being served by CHIP will have incomes between 185 and 200 % of poverty and be over income for WIC. Although federal regulations allow for states to expand adjunctive eligibility to State-administered programs in addition to Medicaid, TANF, and Food Stamps, such State-administered programs must use eligibility guidelines at or below 185 % of poverty and routinely require documentation of income.

The state agency will provide further information in the very near future on the role WIC should play in identifying, educating, and assisting families to enroll in CHIP. Primarily, WIC's role in CHIP outreach will be to educate staff about CHIP and Medicaid and refer parents/caretakers with uninsured children to CHIP. These activities help WIC meet its mission to serve as an adjunct to health care.

If you have any questions about adjunctive income eligibility, please contact your state agency liaison at (5 12) 406-07 11.